

The Advisor



Police training center opens in Al Anbar

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The faces of Iraqi soldiers and police have been altered to protect their identities.

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ON THE COVER

Iraqi Minister of Interior Jawad al-Bolani and U.S. Army Gen. David H. Petraeus officially inaugurated the Al Anbar Iraqi Police Training Center, June 4, in Al Habbaniyah.

Photo by U.S. Navy MC2 Elisandro Diaz

CPATT general asserts police seeing progress

By Tim Kilbride

Special to American Forces
Press Service

WASHINGTON — Iraq's police force is seeing incremental improvements across the spectrum of its mandate, and the communities it serves are benefiting as a result, an official with the U.S. police-training mission said June 6.

Tangible gains have been made in the police force's relationships with the Iraqi Ministries of Defense and Justice, judicial capacity is on the rise, corruption is being pursued internally, and the training program is continuing to expand, said U.S. Army Brig. Gen. David Phillips, deputy commander of the Civilian Police Assistance Training Team, in a conference call with online journalists and military "bloggers."

The result is that day-to-day life in parts of Baghdad and Anbar province has improved dramatically in some cases as recruits continue to enter the police academies and enhanced police vigilance helps settle neighborhoods, Phillips said.

Looking back on 2004 to 2006, the general noted, "Anbar was an absolute combat zone. That was about as down and dirty as you could get. But now they've rallied together."

Referring to the recent bloom of cooperation between security officials and tribal sheikhs, Phillips said, "They're allowing their sons to go to the academies and train to be police officers, and they have their local groups, which are basically like community watch groups."

Results have come quickly as the local population tires of the al-Qaida presence, Phillips said.

"They're working hand in hand with the Marine forces out there and the Army forces that are out there," he said. "They're turning in the insurgents. They're turning in caches of weapons. And I have to tell you that commerce is

working. The stores are back open, and you get small kids on the streets now waving as you go by in a Humvee."

Similar environmental changes have been seen in Baghdad, the general said, where the casual presence of people on the streets in some neighborhoods indicates a positive shift in how residents gauge the security situation.

"They're turning in the insurgents. They're turning in caches of weapons. And I have to tell you that commerce is working. The stores are back open, and you get small kids on the streets now waving as you go by in a Humvee."

U.S. Army Brig. Gen. David Phillips, deputy commander of the Civilian Police Assistance Training Team

"The fact that families were letting their kids play there again shows that there is some faith in the fact that these policemen are out there," Phillips noted.

There is a lingering distrust of the police in some sectors due to past experiences of corruption, he admitted, but vigorous oversight within the force is helping reduce the problem of "bad cops," Phillips said.

"Are there bad policemen?" he asked. "Every department has bad policemen. Are there more here than other places? Well, we've got some problems. But the internal affairs organization is working ruthlessly to capture them and take them into custody."

Phillips emphasized the Iraqi force is on par with any peer police force around the world. However, their potential is

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U.S. ARMY LT. GEN. MARTIN E. DEMPSEY:

Commander reflects on progress made in transitioning Iraqi forces

**By U.S. Air Force
Senior Airman Christie Putz
MNSTC-I Public Affairs**

Since stepping into office Sept. 8, 2005, U.S. Army Lt. Gen. Martin E. Dempsey has worked toward building “an institution, rather than just a bunch of armed men.”

As the commander of the Multi-National Security Transition Command – Iraq, his job has been to recruit, train and equip the Iraqi Security Forces, a mission he admits has not come without challenges, but is making distinct progress.

“The government is only one year in,” the general said in a recent interview. “Sometimes we forget that. I don’t forget it because I live the dream every day.”

However, the general’s dream will wrap up May 10, along with his tour in Iraq. While his approach may have evolved throughout his tour according to current situations, his mission has remained the same: building a sustainable force to protect the Iraqi people.

He equated his focus over the past two years to a three legged stool. “One leg of which is a standard curriculum and training so that every soldier and every unit... gets the same skill sets,” he said. “You know what you’ve got around the country as opposed to local commanders using local initiatives, building a force to suit their means.”

The second leg is embedded transition teams; the third is partnered units. “And the distinction is very important,” he said.

An embedded transition team’s sole purpose is to develop the security forces, not only in combat operations but also in routine tasks such as administration and logistics. Partnered teams support the missions but have no developmental responsibilities.



MNSTC-I Public Affairs file photo

U.S. Army Lt. Gen. Martin E. Dempsey, Multi-National Security Transition Command – Iraq commander, greets guests in the lobby of the Cultural Arts Center in Baghdad, Iraq, following his change of command ceremony September 2005.

“If you shorten or (undermine) one of those three legs, you end up with a stool that’s going to be off-balanced,” he said. “And in the case of the forces, you end up with a force that’s less developed than you think it will be.”

His focus on these three areas has guided several changes throughout the security forces, from advanced tactical performance on the part of the Iraqis to reduced monetary reliance on the Coalition forces.

“For example, in 2005... the U.S. government was paying the bills for all Iraqi life support for all of the Iraqi Security Forces,” Dempsey said. “We made it a goal in 2006 to transition that over to Iraqi control.”

By the end of 2006, they prevailed. All life support, such as martyr payments and a retirement system, is now provided by the Iraqi government to the entire Iraqi

Army and police.

Goals for 2007 include transitioning funding for military equipment over to the Iraqis.

With plans for the Iraqi government to invest \$6 billion into the Foreign Military Sales program this year, he said this will be the first year that Iraq will spend more money on its defense than the United States.

These budget strides are only one example of the progress being made. Nearly every month military training schools, healthcare facilities and operation support functions are transitioning to Iraqi control with Coalition members merely serving as advisors.

As far as a definitive measurement of progress though, Dempsey said that it is hard to measure.

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General's dream comes to a close with end of tour

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"When we built the security forces, we built it against an assumption that levels of violence would go down," said the general.

Although violence levels may go down slightly, he added, they're not going to drop dramatically. "The security forces have to be able to handle the environment in which they find themselves," he said.

Some goals he indicated for the future were plans to continue building additional brigades to continue combating this violence, and cultivating capable leaders to command those brigades.

He estimates that by 2008 the force should be adequately sized and its internal security self-reliant. "They're going to need some assurances from us on external security for some time," he said.

While some pressures urge for a quicker turnover of control, Dempsey's feelings are mixed on the topic.

"There's no question that in some sectors of this enterprise, we'll never know what they're capable of until we let go," he said. "On the other hand, we can't let go... you can't say one day I'm responsible for it, the next day you're responsible for it. There has to be literally a transition scheme."

An effective transition has been Dempsey's primary goal while serving in Iraq, and will not cease after the change of command.

"The Iraqi people deserve our continued support," stated Dempsey. "See, until they give up on themselves, I don't think we should give up on them. And they have not given up on themselves."



Photo by U.S. Army Lt. Col. Scott Bleichwehl

Restoring quality of life

An Iraqi man creates table legs on a lathe in his workshop located off of Baghdad's Haifa Street, May 15. The area had been a hot-bed of violence and extremist activity, but is now returning to a peaceful normalcy of day-to-day living.

Iraqi Security Forces make consistent, gradual headway

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temporarily held in check by levels of insurgent violence that they were neither trained nor intended to face, he said.

While the Coalition and Iraqi Army face down the insurgency, institutional progress is helping smooth the Iraqi police's operations, Phillips said.

Past friction with the Ministry of Defense has alleviated somewhat in recent months, with an agreement reached that located the Al Anbar Iraqi Police Training Center in al Habbaniyah, on the same land as the 1st Iraqi Army Division Headquarters.

"That there is a big step in and of itself that the army and the police are starting to

work together," Phillips said.

That the academy functions, he said, is a big step for the Iraqis. While CPATT advisors provide oversight, "the instructors are all Iraqi (and) the administration of the academy is Iraqi," Phillips said. "This is an Iraqi-run (training center) on an Iraqi military installation."

Like the relationship with the Ministry of Defense, the police's cooperation with the Ministry of Justice also has improved, Phillips said.

The criminal justice system has added capacity to address the backlog of untried cases, he explained, describing the development of a "rule of law" complex in Baghdad that would combine detention and trial facilities in order to speed the

process of judicial review.

What remains outside of the police force's purview for now, Phillips said, are the political situation and sectarian tension in Baghdad and elsewhere.

"Baghdad is a crossroads where you have Christian, you have Kurdish, you have different sects from Sunni to Shiia, and wherever you have that, we see that you can have flashpoints," the general observed.

"That's why there's such an emphasis going on with our search here to try to get a reconciliation between the groups, such as we saw in South Africa years ago," he said. "We're waiting for those senior leaders to come forward and do that handshake."

Al Anbar police training center opens its doors

By U.S. Navy MC2 Elisandro Diaz
MNSTC-I Public Affairs

AL ANBAR, Iraq – One of the tenets of bringing peace and stability to an area is by stopping the re-infiltration of insurgent forces once it has been cleared. This is done by establishing a permanent security presence in those neighborhoods. But to make that happen there has to be well-trained civilian security forces - Iraqi Police - to patrol the neighborhoods on a permanent basis.

The Minister of Interior, Jawad al-Bolani, Al Anbar provincial government representatives and Coalition forces personnel celebrated the grand opening of the Al Anbar Iraqi Police Training Center, June 4, in Al Habbaniyah. The center is tasked with taking citizen recruits and transforming them into Iraqi Police to uphold stability in Al Anbar province.

Bolani noted how the new training site will promote the establishment and promotion of law and order in Al Anbar and throughout Iraq.

“Security is very important for freedom and the Iraqi Police will provide that security,” Bolani said. “Everyone is under the law and we must follow the law. No one is above the law. Our loyalty is going to better Iraq... my brothers... we will make it in a very short time.”

Bolani implored the Iraqi Police to be proud, loyal and kind in their interaction with civilians to gain their goodwill.

“We must have good relations with the people so they can give us their loyalty and trust to create a new Iraq,” he said.

Bolani discussed the hardships Iraqis face because of the instability the terrorists created. He reached out to all Iraqis to participate in its democracy.

“I invite all Iraqi people to serve and save our system,” he said.

Iraqi Police Col. Mohammed, who asked his name be changed for security reasons, was present for the grand opening. He underscored the importance of maintaining a police presence in areas which Iraqi Police and Coalition forces have cleared of insurgents.

“The terrorists used to control the area, but after the Coalition forces cleared it, we followed in their footsteps... if we would pull out it will give terrorists a chance to come back in,” Mohammed said.

Steve Ryan, international police trainer, CPATT, described how the new training center will help the area continue the momentum it has achieved by providing Iraqi policemen who are trained, knowledgeable and disciplined.

“(We provide) a broad panorama of training for a patrol officer’s

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An Iraqi Policeman listens to the Minister of Defense Awad al-Bolani talking about the role and challenges the Iraqi Police have on Iraq’s road to security during the grand opening of the Al Anbar Iraqi Police Training Center June 4 in Al Habbaniyah. Provincial government representatives, Iraqi military and Coalition forces representatives were also present.

Photo by U.S. Navy MC2 Elisandro Diaz

New center will prepare police to sustain security

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functions in our courses,” Ryan said.

Although building of permanent structures at the training center is ongoing, it has the capacity to train 750 recruits through twelve courses during a 10-week training session. Some of the courses are democratic policing, the basics of crime and investigation, and dealing with terrorists, among others.

“We train (the recruits) in firearms and defensive tactics from a civilian police perspective,” Ryan said.

Anthony Pask, international police trainer, CPATT, explained that one of the premises of building the Iraqi Security Forces requires them to take the lead in teaching their own personnel. He offered an example of how the Iraqis are doing just that in firearms training with Coalition forces personnel present to advise only.

“Iraqi instructors who went through the U.S. Marine Corps firearms instructor training are now teaching other Iraqis to become instructors, primarily with handguns and the AK-47s,” Pask said.

According to Pask, the training takes future Iraqi Police through the concept of subject control – from giving verbal commands up through deadly force. “We want to show them that there are less-lethal options available before using lethal force,” he stated.

Pask noted that one of the successes of the center has been in how the Iraqis have taken ownership of the training.

“If they ask we will give them recommendations. They have adapted those to their own culture and needs,” Pask said.

The goal of the training is to provide a standard. “All civilian policing is a standard,” added Pask.

According to Ryan, each Iraqi instructor will teach 10 classes shadowed by a Coalition advisor. This guidance provides understanding and confidence to the Iraqi instructor who will then take the class by himself.

“We (the advisors) will start standing back,” Ryan said. “Then we stop being advisors and turn into evaluators.”

U.S. Army Gen. David H. Petraeus,



Photos by U.S. Navy MC2 Elisandro Diaz

U.S. Army Gen. David H. Petraeus, commander MNF-I, walks through a uniform distribution facility at the Al Anbar Iraqi Police Training Center during the opening day ceremony, June 4, in Al Habbaniyah.

commander MNF-I, shared his thoughts at the event.

“Three months ago Gov. Ma’moun could not walk the streets of Ramadi, (and while) there is still much to be done in Anbar province, what has been accomplished... is truly remarkable,” Petraeus said.

“There are tough days ahead but the progress made is a tribute to your (Iraqi Police) contributions,” Petraeus said, “I would share your successes with all of Iraq.”

In spite of threats and the inherent danger of being a policeman in Iraq, large numbers of residents are showing up at recruiting locations nationwide.

Ryan shared his opinion why they are joining.

“Some of the Iraqi Police have had family members killed and I ask them why they are still here,” he said. “They tell me it’s because they really believe in the future of Iraq.”



Iraqi Minister of Interior Jawad al-Bolani talks with an Iraqi Police member during the grand opening of the training center.



Photo by U.S. Army Staff Sgt. Michael Pryor

Planning Brief

Lt. Col. Ahmed Abdullah (with finger raised), the police commander in Suleikh, Baghdad, gives a convoy briefing to a group of U.S. paratroopers, Iraqi soldiers, and Iraqi police prior to moving out on a joint patrol May 24.

IRAQI SECURITY FORCES / in brief

Iraqi forces help to save child and seize weapons cache

BALAD — Iraqi Security Forces seized a cache containing more than 1,000 pounds of weapons and explosives and rendered lifesaving aid to a child during a convoy patrol in western Iraq June 7.

With Coalition forces present as advisors, Iraqi forces led the patrol east of Ramadi where they heard a burst of gunfire while they were disposing an anti-tank mine. Following the gunfire, local citizens rushed a little girl suffering from a gunshot wound to the chest, to their location.

Iraqi and Coalition forces rendered first aid and stabilized the child. She was evacuated to Al Asad for further medical treatment and recovery.

Iraqi forces also discovered and disposed of more than 200 pounds of homemade explosives, a 122mm rocket, and approximately 70 projectiles of various sizes, various fuses and around 50 pounds of propellants during the patrol.

— *Multi-National Corps – Iraq Public Affairs*

Iraqi soldiers detain two insurgent leaders and detain five others

BAGHDAD — Iraqi Army forces captured two insurgent leaders and detained five other suspects during a raid June 6 in northern Iraq. The insurgents are believed to be linked to the al-Qaida in Iraq terrorist network in northern Iraq.

The two insurgent leaders are accused of conducting multiple assassinations and IED attacks on civilians and

Coalition forces in the Za'ab triangle north from Baghdad to Mosul or Irbil:

1. The Feb. 13, 2005, attack that killed three Iraqi National Guard soldiers.
2. The May 14, 2004, assassination of the Governor of Ninawa.
3. A June 1, 2007, VBIED in Haychel.
4. The May 13, 2007, VBIED attack in Makmoor.

Acting on intelligence reports, Iraqi forces raided the residences and detained their primary targets without incident. Five other individuals were also detained during the operation.

Coalition Forces served as advisors during the operation.

— *Multi-National Corps – Iraq Public Affairs*

Soldiers detain suspects in joint operation

BAGHDAD — Iraqi Army and Coalition forces detained two suspected kidnappers June 6 during a joint operation.

The combined force detained the suspect accused of planning, coordinating and executing numerous kidnappings throughout western Baghdad. The man was taken into custody without incident and the other occupants of the home were questioned.

During a search of the home, the suspect's brother was found to possess personal items belonging to an Iraqi interpreter who was killed three days earlier when the vehicle he was traveling in was struck by an IED. With the evidence discovered in the home, the brother was also detained.

Both suspects remain in custody.

— *Multi-National Division – Baghdad Public Affairs*

IRAQI SECURITY FORCES / in brief

Iraqi soldiers and Coalition forces kill 19 insurgents near Ba'quba

BA'QUBA — A joint team of Iraqi Security Forces and Coalition forces used air and ground firepower to destroy insurgent forces operating in the village of Kabat, near Ba'quba, June 5.

The troops killed 19 insurgents and wounded one other, after the insurgents fired on the joint team with small arms fire and RPGs from inside three buildings.

— *Multi-National Division – North Public Affairs*

Iraqi Special Operations Forces detain four suspected insurgents

BAGHDAD— Iraqi Special Operations Forces captured four suspects during a raid in Baghdad June 5.

The suspects are believed to be coordinating and conducting extra judicial killings in the Baghdad area.

While detaining the individuals, ISOF began to receive enemy fire. The ISOF returned fire, suppressed the enemy and continued the operation.

— *Multi-National Corps – Iraq Public Affairs*

Iraqi Security Forces prevent suicide attack on National Police Academy recruits

BAGHDAD — Iraqi Security Forces prevented a female extremist from killing and injuring police recruits when she detonated a concealed explosive device near the main entrance of the Iraqi National Police Academy in the

Adhamiyah district June 5.

The woman approached the main gate at the academy and was ordered to stop after an Iraqi soldier saw her adjusting a vest underneath her clothing.

The attacker continued to approach the gate and after another verbal warning, followed by a warning shot, she started running toward a crowd of national police recruits.

Iraqi Army troops opened fire on the woman, at which time she detonated an explosive device, killing herself.

The failed suicide attack occurred one day after a recruiting drive, where hundreds of Iraqi citizens volunteered for service at the training academy.

No Iraqi Security Forces or police recruits were injured in the attack.

— *Multi-National Division – Baghdad Public Affairs*

Iraqi Army and Coalition forces discover large explosives cache

BA'QUBA — Iraqi troops and Coalition forces discovered a large explosives cache and a VBIED in a residence northwest of Ba'quba, June 4.

The cache included several anti-tank mines, fire extinguishers containing homemade explosives, a Katyusha rocket, bomb making components and one VBIED.

The VBIED contained several bottles of explosives in the trunk and three tanks filled with homemade explosives.

An Explosive Ordnance Disposal team destroyed the materials in a controlled detonation.

— *Multi-National Division – North Public Affairs*



Photo by U.S. Army Sgt. Rachel Ahner

Checkpoint

Soldiers from the 3rd Brigade, 9th Iraqi Army Division check a bongo truck during a routine vehicle check on a road outside Husseniya, Iraq, May 9.